

PRESS RELEASE

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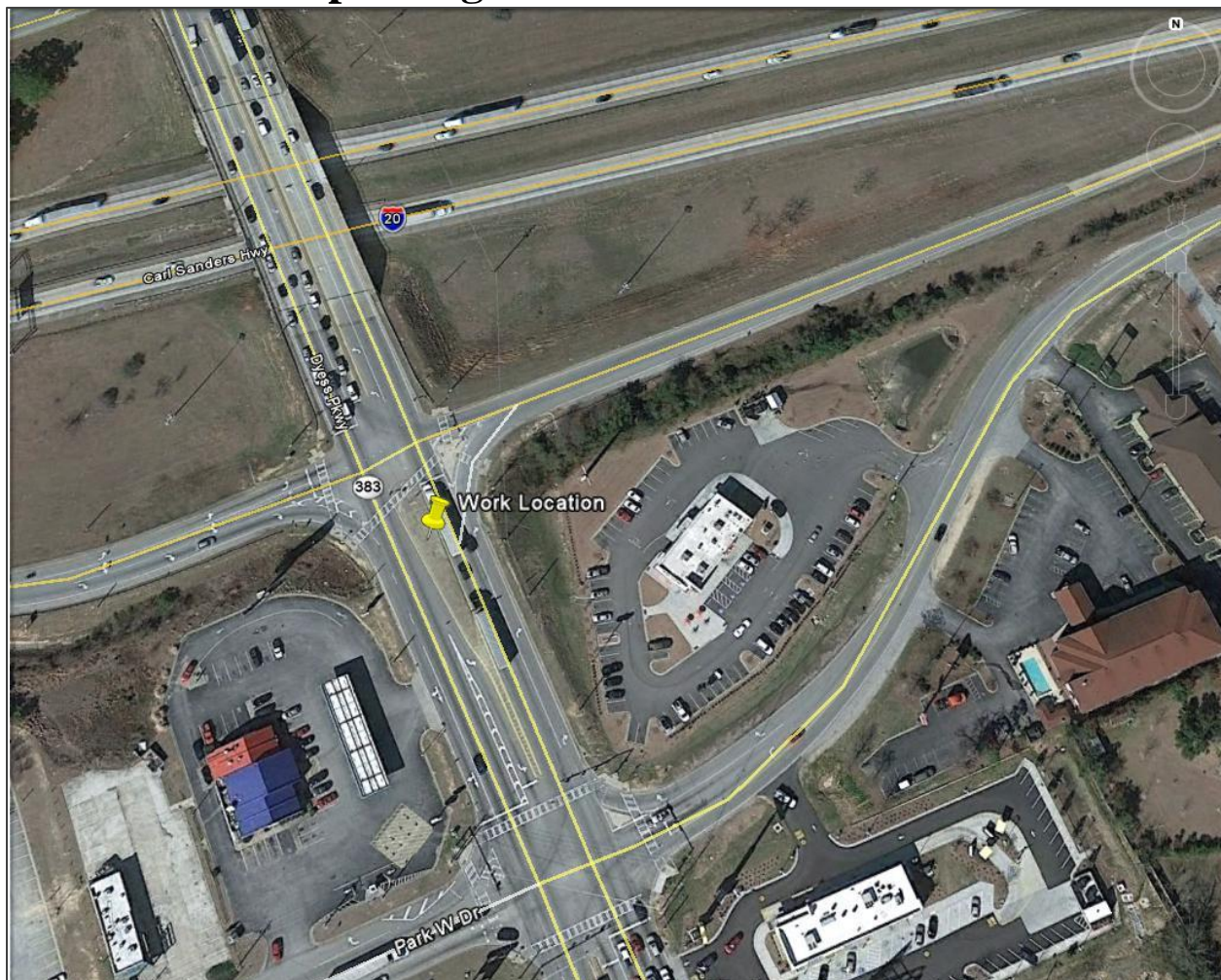


For Immediate Release:
Tuesday, January 5, 2016

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Columbia County Quick Response...

GDOT funds improving Belair Road intersection near I-20



The Georgia Department of Transportation recently approved \$39,505 in Quick Response Program funding to extend the existing left turn lane from State Route 383 (Belair Road) onto Frontage Road in Columbia County. This high priority project, awarded to Beam's Contracting Inc., is set to run from **9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6 through Friday, Jan. 8** as weather allows.

The contractor will modify the existing raised concrete median to allow for the turn lane extension, therefore a lane closure can be expected. Motorist should be aware of the advanced warning signs and watch out for contractor personnel and vehicles entering and exiting the median area.

Remember that speeding fines increase in work zones. When going through work zones, drivers should expect the unexpected; don't speed; don't tailgate; obey road crew flaggers; pay attention to signs; stay alert; and minimize distractions.

The Quick Response Program supports operational projects such as restriping, intersection improvements, turn lane additions and extensions that can be implemented in a short period of time and for under \$200,000. These proposals generally stay within the state right-of-way and require little if any utility relocation. The state funds will cover the entire construction cost.

Editor's Note: Please see the attach Google Earth image of the project location.

In their 2015 legislative session, Georgia lawmakers addressed the state's critical transportation infrastructure needs with passage of House Bill 170, Georgia's transportation funding bill. The Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015 is expected to generate an estimated \$870 million in the first fiscal year. This sustained annual revenue will be used to fund much-needed routine maintenance and capital improvements. GDOT is planning now so that projects can advance quickly once funds are received starting in July 2016.

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